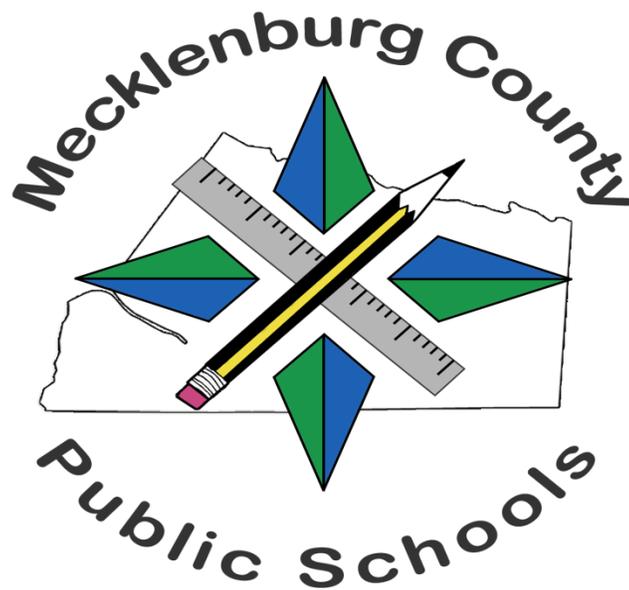


MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES



**Bluestone Middle & Park View Middle
2019-2020**

Dear Parents,

Education in Virginia is undergoing significant change. The State Board of Education has passed new Standards of Accreditation (SOA) and Quality (SOQ) to support new graduation expectations. The new regulations are called “Profile of a Graduate,” and go far beyond the current expectation that students demonstrate proficiency on SOL (Standards of Learning) exams. To complete the Profile of a Graduate a student shall understand what jobs and careers are available, make a significant selection of a career pathway, and demonstrate appropriate success with academics and practical skills in preparing for that career. This should include appropriate understanding of work habits and demonstration of good discipline.

This booklet is designed to provide you and your child with information regarding the career preparation opportunities available at Mecklenburg County Public Schools. We are excited to provide options that represent all 16 career clusters of work within six career centers. A long term career plan is vital for success with career and college and is now required to earn a high school diploma. Please work with your child in developing a career plan that will prepare him/her for their dream of success within the workforce, armed forces, or continuing education toward industry certificate or university diploma (or both!). School counselors are available to assist you in making selections appropriate for your child's future. Feel free to make appointments with the school's counselor as needed for assistance.

Mecklenburg County Public Schools is focused on creating strategic partnerships with the Community College, institutions of higher education, and many local business and industry to create wonderful opportunities for your child. I encourage you to explore all options for your child. We are appreciative of the time that we have with your child, and soon they will be embarking on greater adventures. Our goal is that their time with us provides the skills and tools necessary for taking the next step.

Sincerely,



DISCLOSURE: The Mecklenburg County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, marital or veteran's status, genetic information, disability or any classification protected by applicable law in its programs, activities or employment. The Director of Personnel will act as the Compliance Officer for discrimination regarding employees under Title IX. The Assistant Superintendent will act as the Compliance Officer for discrimination regarding students under Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Both compliance officers may be contacted at the Mecklenburg County Public Schools' Central Office at 175 Mayfield Drive, Boydton, VA 23917 or by calling 434-738-6111.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call [1-800-421-3481](tel:1-800-421-3481).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Phone Numbers	5
Mission Statement	5
Vision Statement	5
Special Note	5
Middle School Registration Guidelines	5
Timeline for Schedule Changes	6
Revised School Accreditation and Graduation Requirements	6
Academic and Career Plan	6
Career Investigation Course	7
Career Exploration Platforms	7
Gifted Education	7
Middle School Course Offerings	9
Middle School Language Arts Course Descriptions	10
Middle School Math Course Descriptions	10
Middle School Science Course Descriptions	11
Middle School History/Social Science Course Descriptions	12
Middle School Electives Course Descriptions	12

Dear Students and Parents:

This Program of Studies booklet has been prepared to provide you with pertinent information regarding scheduling guidelines and available course options. The regulations and course descriptions should assist you in preparing a schedule for the upcoming school year and in planning a personalized plan of studies for the future.

Questions should be directed to the respective school counseling departments at the middle schools. The telephone numbers are:

PHONE NUMBERS	
BLUESTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL 434-372-3266	PARK VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL 434-447-3761
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION WINGLER-JONES @ 434-738-6111 EXT/22026	

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Mecklenburg Public School Division, in partnership with family and community, is to provide all students with a quality education within a safe environment supporting the development of intellectual growth, effective communication, wellness, and life-long learning in a rapidly changing society.

VISION STATEMENT

Mecklenburg County Public Schools provide a 21st century learning environment which fosters career literacy, academic enhancement, social-emotional growth and community engagement that prepares students who contribute to the global society.

SPECIAL NOTE

The "Standards of Accreditation for Virginia Schools" allows a one-time provision for any high school credit bearing-course taken in middle school. Parents may request that grades be omitted from the student's transcript and the student will not earn high school credit for the course(s). A form will be provided for parents who wish to exercise this option. If a parent wishes to have the grade omitted, the form must be submitted to the high school principal by the end of June before the student enters the ninth grade.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

1. Students will pre-register for classes in Jan./Feb. for the upcoming school term.
2. Mecklenburg County Public Schools have an open enrollment policy for all courses. Students are free to select from any of the available courses, provided they meet the grade level requirement and have successfully completed the stated prerequisite courses.
3. Parental approval and signature must accompany course requests and changes unless changes are due to clerical error.
4. Requests to add or drop courses after the opening of school will be handled by a school counselor. In making the decision on the schedule change request, the school counselor will consider extenuating factors such as teacher/ administrative recommendation,

course difficulty, space availability, medical justification, and present student performance in the applicable course.

TIMELINE FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES

PRE-REGISTRATION	Jan./Feb.
LAST DAY FOR COURSE SELECTION CHANGE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY STUDENT AND PARENT	July 1
REQUEST TO DROP OR ADD COURSE WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY	No later than the 10 th day of school No later than the 5 th day of the 1 st and 2 nd semesters for electives

REVISED SCHOOL ACCREDITATION & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

On November 16, 2017 the Virginia Board of Education approved revisions to the requirements students must meet to earn a high school diploma. For students, the revised regulations reduce the number of Standards of Learning tests they need to pass to earn a diploma. The new standards also implement the “Profile of a Virginia Graduate,” a set of expectations that includes increased emphasis on developing critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship skills, in addition to academic achievement in English, mathematics, science and history.

The new diploma requirements would take effect with students entering the ninth grade in the Fall 2018 (Class of 2022). Course requirements for both the Advanced Studies Diploma and the Standard Diploma would remain the same but the number of required verified credits would be reduced to five (one each in English reading, English writing, mathematics, science and history/social science). In addition, schools would be required to provide opportunities for students to learn about career options aligned with their interests in their own communities and elsewhere.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLAN - REVISED 2011

Beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, all schools began the development of a Personal Academic and Career Plan for each 7th grade student with completion by the fall of the student’s eighth-grade year. The Academic and Career Plan is designed to be a working document that maximizes student achievement by setting and accomplishing goals in middle and high school that lead to postsecondary success. The Plan should be student-driven and maintained by school officials working cooperatively to assist the student in reaching his or her goals in the most logical academic and career path. The Academic and Career Plan should start with the end in mind.

Plans of study provide successful student transitions between secondary and postsecondary education. The plan includes academic and career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses. The plan leads to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or bachelor’s degree. It includes the

opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment courses or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits.

The student, student's parent or guardian, and school official(s) will create a plan agreed upon and signed by all parties to ensure that everyone is focused on working toward the same goals and analyze and adjust the plan in response to new information to meet the needs of the student.

The plan shall include, but is not limited to, the student's program of studies for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests. The plan shall be included in the student's record and shall be reviewed and updated, if necessary, before the student enters the ninth and eleventh grades.

Students who transfer from an out of state public school into the eighth grade shall have a plan developed as soon as possible following enrollment.

CAREER INVESTIGATION COURSE

Superintendent's Memo #187-17, dated June 23, 2017, states that, "To support development of the Academic Career Plan, students shall complete a Career Investigations course selected from the Career and Technical Education state-approved list to support development of the ACP, or a school division-provided alternative means of delivering the Career Investigations course, provided that the alternative is equivalent in content and academic rigor."

In this course, students will identify personal preferences, skills, and interests that influence career choices and success. A number of soft skills will be highlighted, such as, punctuality, courtesy, proper dress, etc. Students will have an understanding on how each of these topics relate to the education and training needed for achieving career goals and how each of these affect overall quality of life.

CAREER EXPLORATION PLATFORMS

The Virginia Education Wizard and other assessment tool such as MARI, LLC, Major Clarity or Naviance that could be used by students enrolled in both middle and high schools. The internet based programs may be used by students, parents, and counselors to assist students with selecting career options.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Eligible students in Grades 6-8 who are identified to receive gifted education services participate in after-school enrichment activities and specialized seminars. In addition, appropriately differentiated instruction can be delivered through the regular education classroom.

REFERRALS:

Parents may refer their child at any time by contacting the Gifted Coordinator (738-6111) or by contacting the Gifted Education contact teacher at your child's school. In addition, referrals may be made by a classroom teacher or other professional staff member as well.

Once a referral is made it will be processed and a decision made within 60 days.

ELIGIBILITY PROCESS:

Eligibility for the Gifted Education Program is determined by the division's Identification/Placement Committee. Eligibility data is collected throughout the school year. Necessary testing of candidates may occur throughout the school year. Parents will be notified of the determination for services at the completion of the screening/ identification process.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

SIXTH GRADE	
REQUIRED COURSES	
LANGUAGE ARTS 6	MATH 6
SCIENCE 6	UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1865
ELECTIVES	
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6*	EXPLORATORY ART
BEGINNING BAND	INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN CULTURES
INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY	INTRODUCTION TO AGRISCIENCE
DIGITAL INPUT TECHNOLOGIES***	MUSIC 6##
COMPUTER SOLUTIONS***	

SEVENTH GRADE	
REQUIRED COURSES	
UNITED STATES HISTORY II: 1865-PRESENT	LANGUAGE ARTS 7
MATH 7 OR MATH 7 ADVANCED+	LIFE SCIENCE 7
ELECTIVES	
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7*	ART 7
INTERMEDIATE BAND	INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH
INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS	AGRISCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
INTRODUCTION TO IT FUNDAMENTALS***	MUSIC 7##
COMPUTER APPLICATIONS***	

EIGHTH GRADE	
REQUIRED COURSES	
CIVICS	LANGUAGE ARTS 8
MATH 8 OR ALGEBRA 1**	PHYSICAL SCIENCE
ELECTIVES	
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION - PREPARATION	ADVANCED BAND
SPANISH I/ROSETTA STONE	ART 8
HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8	TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS
IT FUNDAMENTALS***	
MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS***	

*Required

**MATH 8 - for those who scored below 450 on the Math 7 SOL -- Algebra I (for those who scored 450 or higher on the Math 7 SOL).

***Available at Park View Middle School Only

##Available at Bluestone Middle School Only

+ Students who score a 500 on the Math 6 SOL will be permitted to take Math 7 during 1st semester of 7th grade and Math 8 during 2nd semester.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6

GRADE 6

This course emphasizes an integrated approach to the development of reading comprehension and writing skills. Students will strengthen and improve spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral communication skills while exploring the rules of grammar through various forms of writing. The application of critical reading and reasoning skills is emphasized, and shall serve as a foundation for the written compositions created by the students. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate.

Note: The Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered near the end of sixth grade.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7

GRADE 7

This course is designed to strengthen word study and increase vocabulary, reading comprehension, and oral communication skills. Students will explore the rules of grammar while refining their written composition techniques. Students will increase their proficiency in the use of print and electronic information resources. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate ***Note: The Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered near the end of seventh grade.***

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

GRADE 8

Students will continue to refine skills in oral communication, written expression, critical thinking and reading comprehension. Writing activities are designed to explore more deeply the rules of grammar while strengthening the application of language skills through various forms of writing. An emphasis on reading will allow for the development of an appreciation for literature through the study of classics and contemporary selections. Students will communicate through electronic networks to gain a basic understanding of processing and transmitting electronic and digital information. Applicable technology will be used as appropriate. ***Note: The Reading and Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered near the end of eighth grade.***

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATH 6

GRADE 6

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework for Math 6 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 6 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 6.

Note: The Math 6 Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.

MATH 7

GRADE 7

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework for Math 7 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 7 SOL objectives outlined in

the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 7.

Note: Math 7 Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.

MATH 8 (PRE-ALGEBRA)**GRADE 8**

This course places emphasis on the Curriculum Framework for Math 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Math 8 SOL objectives outlined in the division's Curriculum Pacing Guide for Math 8.

Note: Math 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) Computer Adaptive Test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.

ALGEBRA I**GRADE 8**

**Prerequisite(s): 450 or higher on the Math 7 SOL Test
Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This course focuses on all the topics in the Curriculum Framework for Algebra I Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives. Classroom instruction will be based on Algebra I SOL objectives outlined in the division's Pacing Guide for Algebra I. **1 high school credit.**

Note: End of course Algebra I SOL test will be administered in the spring to students completing this course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE 6**GRADE 6**

This course presents substantial, general science content in a flexible format, building on skills and concepts from grades K-5. Students gain a solid, well-balanced foundation of science concepts based on five major strands: Force, Motion, and Energy, Matter, Living Systems, Interrelationships in Earth/Space, Resources. Students are expected to use the scientific method and hands-on-discovery to conduct group and/or individual projects/experiments.

LIFE SCIENCE 7**GRADE 7**

Students in this course will explore the world of plants and animals using the scientific method in experimentation and hands-on-discovery. There is an emphasis on a more complex understanding of changes, cycles, patterns, and relationships in the world. Subjects covered will include the characteristics of living things; life origins; the classification and characteristics of plants and animals; the human body; heredity; adaptation; and ecology.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8**GRADE 8**

Physical Science 8 continues to build on skills of systematic investigation. Major areas covered include: the organization and use of the periodic table; physical and chemical changes; nuclear reaction; temperature and heat; sound; light; electricity and magnetism; and work, force, and motion. Students will plan and conduct research involving both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from written and electronic resources.

Note: Students will be administered the Science 8 Standards of Learning (SOL) Test on Science 6, Life Science 7, and Physical Science objectives near the end of this course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1865

GRADE 6

This course relates to the history of the United States from the Pre-Columbian times until 1865. Content of the course includes concepts in civics, economics, and geography. Students study United States History in chronological sequence; learn about change and continuity in our history, and study documents and speeches that lay the foundation of American ideals and institutions. This course continues in grade 7. **Note: Students will complete Performance Based Assessments throughout the course in lieu of the SOL test.**

UNITED STATES HISTORY: 1865 TO PRESENT

GRADE 7

This course continues the study of the history of the United States from 1865 to the present day, thus completing a two-year study of American history. Students continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography in the context of United States History. **Note: Students will complete Performance Based Assessments throughout the course in lieu of the SOL test.**

UNITED STATES CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

GRADE 8

This course covers the role of the citizen in the American political and economic systems. The focus is on gaining essential knowledge of the U.S. and Virginia Constitution and the structure and functions of government institutions at the national, state, and local levels. **Note: Students will be administered Civics & Economics Standards of Learning (SOL) Test at the end of this course.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART 6

GRADE 6

This course incorporates creative problem solving and the use of various art materials.

COMPUTER SOLUTIONS (available at PVMS only)

GRADE 6

Students are introduced to the world of business using the computer as a problem-solving tool. Emphasis is placed on using basic touch keyboarding skills to complete a variety of projects incorporating word processing, database, presentation, and spreadsheet software. Basic Internet safety and computer maintenance issues are important components of this course.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY

GRADE 6

This course allows students to explore four systems of technology that include construction, transportation, communication, and product manufacturing. The impact of technology on society and the environment will be incorporated in future-planning and the decision-making process.

INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN CULTURES

GRADE 6

This course is designed to introduce students to as many cultures as possible. Students will

be taught the importance of respect and tolerance for all cultures. Students will become aware of important documents necessary to travel abroad, such as passports. If time permits, students will study the process of immigration and naturalization on becoming a citizen of a foreign country. ***This program is dependent upon enrollment and faculty availability.***

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 (required) **GRADE 6**

Topics in the six grade health program include body systems, physical, emotional and social growth, health care, consumer choices, nutrition, physical fitness, disease prevention, drugs, bullying prevention, safety and environmental issues. Students participate in activities that promote fitness and cardiorespiratory endurance. Students learn and practice skills in basketball, volleyball, and many other activities.

BEGINNING BAND **GRADE 6**

This course emphasizes the fundamentals of music as well as instruction in playing an instrument.

MUSIC 6 (available at BMS only) **GRADE 6**

This exploratory course is to enable students to obtain musical knowledge and skills by participating in music through singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, and composing/improvising. Students explore music theory by reading and writing music notation and become familiar with important musical styles and representative works of music from different periods of music history.

INTRODUCTION TO AGRISCIENCE **GRADE 6**

Through project-based learning, technical skill development, and academic enrichment activities, students in Introduction to Agriscience will explore the importance of plant and animal agriculture, scientific principles, agricultural mechanics, natural resources management, career opportunities related to agriculture, agriscience, and agribusiness, and the benefits of FFA membership.

DIGITAL INPUT TECHNOLOGIES (available at PVMS only) **GRADE 6**

Digital Input Technologies introduces new and emerging input devices (e.g., speech- and handwriting-recognition software, tablets, cloud computing software applications, headsets/microphones, scanners, digital cameras, digital video cameras, mobile devices, keyboards, mice) to prepare students for using tools that are becoming standard in the workplace and everyday life.

ART 7 **GRADE 7**

This exploratory course allows students to experiment with various wet and dry media such as pencils, charcoal, and ink while learning basic drawing techniques. A basic art vocabulary as well as major artists and their works will be studied.

MUSIC 7 (available at BMS only) **GRADE 7**

This exploratory course is to enable students to enhance musical knowledge and skills. Students participate in increasingly complex music through singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, and composing/improvising music.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (*available at PVMS only*) **GRADE 7**

Students develop correct keyboarding techniques and gain a basic knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, database graphics, and telecommunications applications. Students demonstrate an understanding of computer concepts through application of knowledge.

INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS **GRADE 7**

Students in this course are introduced to career opportunities in the Construction and Design Technology field. Students work with projects that help them understand the principles of carpentry, electricity, plumbing, and masonry. Students will be introduced to a Computer Aided Drafting Software Program.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH **GRADE 7**

This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. In addition, the course is designed to study these past civilizations and how they impacted modern civilization. *This program is dependent upon enrollment and faculty availability.*

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 (required) **GRADE 7**

This course includes the study of health, growth and development, nutrition, substance abuse, bullying prevention, and safety. Students participate in activities that promote fitness and cardiorespiratory endurance.

INTERMEDIATE BAND **GRADE 7**

Each student must learn the basic terms of music and the fundamentals of his/her instrument. Concert and parade performances are required.

AGRISCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY **GRADE 7**

Through laboratory activities, students apply scientific principles to the field of agriculture, including plants, animals, and ecology/conservation. The course introduces students to biotechnology as it relates to agriculture.

INTRODUCTION TO IT FUNDAMENTALS (*available at PVMS only*) **GRADE 7**

Student will explore an introduction into computer science through computer programming. Learning basic skills and terminology as well as hands on study through code.org. This introductory course will be a stronger concentration on the basics technology fundamentals and digital citizenship.

ART 8 **GRADE 8**

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of art through drawing, design, craft projects, sculpture, and painting. Art history is studied throughout the year. This class is designed to help students realize the importance of visual arts and art history.

ADVANCED BAND**GRADE 8**

Students must have knowledge of music terms as well as above average playing skills. Performances include: ball games, concerts, parades, and other school events. Band members must attend all performances.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION-PREPARATION**GRADE 8****Prerequisite(s): Agri-Science Technology****Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This course covers a wide variety of information about agriculture and related fields. The intent is to allow the instructor to customize instruction to meet the needs of the student and agricultural education program. Content areas include woodworking and basic mechanics, plant science and landscaping, animal science and care, ecology and natural resource management, and agribusiness operations.

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS (*available at PVMS only*)**GRADE 8**

Students are provided opportunities to run a small group or class business based on their own design for providing a service or product needed at their school. They learn business terminology, basic entrepreneurship concepts, and fundamental business operating principles.

SPANISH I / ROSETTA STONE**GRADE 8****Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of the Spanish language. Emphasis will be placed on the four skills needed for communicating in a foreign language: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. ***This program is dependent upon enrollment and faculty availability.***

TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**GRADE 8**

This course is a multi-disciplinary field which combines science, technology, engineering and hands on projects to build on the interest of technology skills.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**GRADE 8**

This course includes the study of body systems, hygiene, nutrition, human growth and development, substance abuse, bullying prevention, and safety. Students also participate in activities that promote fitness, and cardiorespiratory endurance such as basketball, volleyball, and many other activities. ***Students opting not to enroll in HPE 8 must provide documentation of organized physical activities taking place outside of standard school hours.***

IT FUNDAMENTALS (*available at PVMS only*)**GRADE 8****Credit: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

Information Technology (IT) Fundamentals introduces the essential technical and professional skills required for students to pursue programs leading to professional careers and IT certifications. Students investigate career opportunities and technologies in four major IT areas: Information Services and Support, Network Systems, Programming and Software Development, and Interactive Media. Students will evaluate the impact of IT on

other career clusters. The focus of the IT Fundamentals course is the introduction of skills related to information technology basics, Internet fundamentals, network systems, computer maintenance/upgrading/troubleshooting, computer applications, programming, graphics, Web page design, and interactive media. Students explore ethical issues related to computers and Internet technology and develop teamwork and communication skills that will enhance their employability.